

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24

INTRODUCED BY BERGREN

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA COMMEMORATING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION IN MONTANA.

WHEREAS, on May 14, 1804, the Corps of Discovery, led by Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, left St. Louis and traveled up the Missouri River, journeyed to its headwaters, and then followed the Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean; and

WHEREAS, Lewis and Clark entered the area currently known as Montana in the springtime of 1805 and traveled more miles in Montana than in any other present state; and

WHEREAS, Lewis and Clark used the Missouri River as a major thoroughfare for their journey through the wild lands of Montana, encountering the Great Falls of the Missouri on June 13, 1805, encountering the Gates of the Mountains on June 19, 1805, when the expedition reached the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, and finding the headwaters of the Missouri River on July 25, 1805; and

WHEREAS, Lewis and Clark encountered the Salish and Kootenai nations who assisted them in traveling across the most difficult overland segment of their expedition, namely over present-day Lolo Pass and near the area now known as the Great Burn; and

WHEREAS, in July 1806, Corps of Discovery member Sergeant Nathaniel Pryor traversed an area of the Crow Indian nation, now named in his honor as the Pryor Mountains, on the eastward segment of the expedition, a remote area that ranges from high plateaus to desert limestone canyons; and

WHEREAS, Captain Lewis and his return party, traveling east, followed the Blackfoot River and Alice Creek, reaching the Continental Divide, and the expedition reached the location currently known as the Lewis and Clark Pass on July 7, 1806; and

WHEREAS, Lewis and Clark encountered fish and wildlife in abundance during their journey and subsisted on fish and game just as modern-day anglers and hunters currently do, treasuring Montana's trout streams, deer and elk herds, and many other opportunities to enjoy the outdoors; and

WHEREAS, in the span of 200 years since the Lewis and Clark expedition, the Missouri River has been dammed and transformed into a series of slackwater impoundments or, in many places, narrow, fast-flowing

1 channels, and management of this river significantly impacts the continuance of agriculture, fisheries, wildlife,
2 and recreational opportunities.

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4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
5 THE STATE OF MONTANA:

6 That the Senate and House of Representatives:

7 (1) applaud the extraordinary journey conceived by President Thomas Jefferson and carried out by
8 Captains Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery;

9 (2) recognize the enormous contribution of the American Indian nations to the success of this journey;

10 (3) support efforts to conserve the Missouri River through science-based management of its annual
11 water fluctuations and maintenance of its fisheries and wildlife populations;

12 (4) support the conservation of our natural heritage as a commemoration of the spirit of the Corps of
13 Discovery; and

14 (5) support Montana's efforts to encourage all Americans to visit, to appreciate, and to develop a sense
15 of the importance of protecting this natural legacy for future generations.

16 - END -